## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

statement. 37 CFR § 1.97.

| This declaration is of the following type:   |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| [ ] original [ ] design [ ] supplemental [X] national stage of PCT [ ] divisional [ ] continuation [ ] continuation-in-part (CIP)  |  |  |  |  |
| My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.   |  |  |  |  |
| I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed for and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: |  |  |  |  |
| SHEET COMBINING DEVICE AND A METHOD FOR COMBINING SHEETS   |  |  |  |  |
| the specification of which:  |  |  |  |  |
| [ ] is attached hereto   |  |  |  |  |
| [ ] was filed on as  |  |  |  |  |
| Application Serial No.   |  |  |  |  |
| and was amended on(If applicable)  |  |  |  |  |
| [X] was described and claimed in PCT International application   |  |  |  |  |
| No. PCT/DE03/03993 filed on December 5, 2003   |  |  |  |  |
| and as amended under PCT Article 19 on June 17, 2004 (if any).   |  |  |  |  |
| I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any Amendment referred to above.  |  |  |  |  |
| I acknowledge duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in  |  |  |  |  |

[X] In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure

| foreign application(s) for pa  | itent or inventor's<br>on for patent of in | certificate listed below and hiventor's certificate having a alimed: | ave also id                    | entified  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| [ ] no such applications [X ] such applications ha   |  | follows:   |                                |           |  |  |
| Prior Foreign Application(s  | )  |  |                                |           |  |  |
| 10259655.7<br>(Number)   | Germany<br>(Country)                       | 18/12/2002<br>(Day/month/year filed)                                 | - [X]<br>Yes                   | [ ]<br>No |  |  |
| 10321021.0<br>(Number)   | Germany<br>(Country)                       | 10/5/2003<br>(Day/month/year filed)                                  | - [X]<br>Yes                   | []<br>No  |  |  |
| 10325226.6<br>(Number)   | Germany<br>(Country)                       | 04/6/2003<br>(Day/month/year filed)                                  | - [X]<br>Yes                   | [ ]<br>No |  |  |
| I hereby claim the benefit u<br>Provisional application(s) li  | nder Title 35, Unit<br>sted below:         | ed States Code, § 119(e) of  | any United                     | l States  |  |  |
| (Application Number)   | (F   | Filing Date)   |                                |           |  |  |
| (Application Number) (Filing Date)   |  |  |                                |           |  |  |
| I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: |  |  |                                |           |  |  |
| (Application No.)  | Filing [                                   |  | (Patented, pending, abandoned) |           |  |  |
| (Application No.)  | Filing [                                   |  | (Patented, pending, abandoned) |           |  |  |

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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|--|---------------|
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